The motion was put to vote and carried.

The Demand was passed and the grant was made.

## DEMAND XII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT AND ACCOUNT OFFICE.

**MR. K. J CHERIYAN**: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2,14,892 under Demand XII—General Administration Financial Secretariat and Account Office.

### Motions Nos. 421 to 426.

The following motions were not moved.

MR. KANNARA GOPALA PANICKAR:

421. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,039 for establishment by Re. 1.

MR. KANNARA GOPALA PANICKAR:

422. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI:

423. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 24,315 for Financial Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH:

424. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,07,377 for Account Office by Re. 1.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI:

425. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,07,377 for Account Office by Re. 1.

MR. KAVIYOOR K. K. KOCHUKUNJU:

426. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,07,377 for Account Office by Re. 1.

**PRESIDENT**: The question before the House is that the Government be given a grant of Rs. 2,14,892 under Demand XII—General Administration—Financial Secretariat and Account Office.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

## DEMAND XIII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN**: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 52,500 under Demand XIII—General Administration—Legislative Bodies.

The following motions were not moved.

### Motion No. 427.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI:

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 42,000 for travelling allowance by Re. 1."

### Motion No. 428.

MR. K. KESAVAN:

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for remuneration for election commissioners etc., by Re. 1.

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**Motion No. 429.**

**MR. M. G. MATTHEW:** Sir, I move the following :—

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for remuneration to election commissioners &c. by Re. 1".

Sir, the object of moving this is to discuss the necessity of introducing the coloured box system in elections. The present method of elections is voting by the ballot. This has got a number of difficulties. One of the greatest difficulty that exists in the present system of elections is that very many of the voters are illiterate. These people who come to the polling station to vote say that they are not literate. In such cases they are allowed to vote and their vote will be recorded by the polling officer who marks the ballot papers in the presence of other officers and agents. In such a case, the difficulty often arises for the voter to express his intention to vote in the presence of a number of people. Very often he is influenced by the others who are around him at the time and this causes him to vote one way or other much against his will.

**MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI:** A point of order. From the discussion which the honourable member is entering into, I find that he is entrenching on matters which are prohibited by the constitution of this House. Under Section 17 of the Legislative Reforms Regulation.....

**PRESIDENT:** I will give you a ruling on the matter after lunch.

(The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 1-1. p. m., and reassembled at 2 p. m.)

**PRESIDENT:** Under Section 28 (4), the followiug matters are not open to discussion by either Chamber at the time when the budget is under consideration :—

"expenditure relating to any matter removed from the cognisance of either Chamber by Section 17 of the Regulation.....",

and, in Section 17 is included 'the provisions of this Regulation and the Rules framed thereunder.' I should like to know from the Legal Remembrancer whether the system of voting is provided for by Rules framed under this Regulation.

**MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI:** Yes, Sir.

**MR. M. G. MATTHEW:** The Rules regarding the system of voting have not been included in the Manual; therefore I do not think those Rules are those contemplated in Section 17 of the Regulation.

**MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI:** The Electoral Rules are framed under the Regulation.

Sir, I was listening to the speech of the honourable member with a view to see whether his object was to effect any change in the system of election formulated and laid down by the Rules framed under the Regulation. I found that that was his object and hence it was that I submitted that the motion was out of order.

**PRESIDENT:** The question is whether the introduction of coloured boxes is or is not consistent with the present Rules issued under the Regulation.

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**MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI:** I think it is not.

**MR. E. P. VARUGHESE:** May I just point out that Section 17 only says that it shall not be lawful for the House to consider or *enact any measure*.....

**PRESIDENT:** If the honourable member would refer to Section 28(4). he would find that, at the time the budget is under consideration, it is not open to either Chamber to discuss expenditure relating any matter removed from the cognisance of either Chamber by Section 17. That is where we are. The honourable member, Mr. M. G. Matthew, will kindly wait till the Electoral Rules are considered; he may pass on to the next motion.

**MR. M. G. MATTHEW:** May I explain, Sir?

**PRESIDENT:** Please do.

**MR. M. G. MATTHEW:** The Legal Remembrancer seemed to object to the particular line of argument that I was developing with regard to the introduction of coloured ballot boxes. Apart from the merits of my argument on that question, the question before the House is only that, whatever be the system or method of voting in other words even under the system of voting as laid down in the Rules now in force coloured boxes may be introduced. That is the only point in my motion. The details of the method of election are certainly left to the Government and to the Rules framed by them under the Regulation.

**Motion No. 430.**

**MR. M. G. MATTHEW:** Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7500 for other expenses by Re. 1.

Sir, at present, under the present Regulation, an election takes place once in four years. Once an electoral roll is prepared, it is again taken up only after four years. It is quite natural that during this interval of four years a number of voters in the roll would have died or, by reason of their alienation of their property, would have lost their right to vote, and a number of others would have acquired the right to vote, either on account of their acquiring properties or educational or other voting qualifications. Now, Sir, whenever the Electoral Roll Special Officer is at work once in four years just before the elections, there are hundreds of parties who are anxious to have their names included in the electoral rolls; and, the special staff of the officer naturally finds it very difficult to enquire into all these cases and decide as to the claims within the short time at their disposal. It therefore happens that only a few persons really manage to get their voting rights recognised by the special officer; all the others, who really have the right to vote, are not actually able to exercise such right. It also happens very often that, because the names of deceased voters still find a place in the electoral rolls, other persons impersonate them at the time of elections.

All these difficulties may be obviated by a special staff maintained for the purpose. A small staff may be maintained and it might be notified to the public that before a particular date, say the 15th of Medom, every year, persons who have acquired voting rights should inform them. And, a Circular may be issued to all the pakuthi

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cutcherries that they should also keep a record of voters that die or otherwise lose their voting rights, as also of persons who acquire the right to vote. The circular should make it obligatory on the pakuthi staff to forward such information to the small special staff engaged in the work, the staff that I now propose.

Sir, this special staff, since they work throughout the year, will certainly have time to incorporate the necessary changes in the electoral rolls as and when they get information, and to keep the electoral rolls up to date.

I may also point out that that is the practice followed in England and other advanced countries. In fact, that is one of the reasons why we do not nowadays hear of election petitions in England and other places. It is only in India that we have so many of these election petitions after every election. As I said, Sir, there are practically no election petitions in England and other countries.

It is with a view to suggest to the Government the need for a small special staff for the purpose of keeping the electoral rolls up to date that I have tabled this motion. I hope the Government will accept it.

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN**: I oppose the motion. I may at the outset say that the innovation suggested by Mr. Matthew is unnecessary and useless. As Mr, Matthew himself stated, at present, the electoral rolls are prepared once in four years just in time for the general elections. If, as suggested by Mr. Matthew, the rolls are to be kept up to date from time to time, the rolls will have to be revised often, even long before the elections take place. In fact, the suggestion by the mover will be practically meaningless. I shall give an instance. Let us take it that a special staff is appointed to revise the rolls from time to time and to keep them up to date. If at the end of the first year a person acquires the right to vote and is included, by the special staff now proposed, in the list of voters, certainly, that does not mean that that person can vote or will have the right to vote at the election which is going to take place three years hence; such person may die or otherwise lose his right to vote. Similarly, any person who is removed from the list in the first two are three years may acquire again the right to vote at the fourth year when the elections are to be held. It will therefore be clear that the revision of the Rules from time to time is absolutely useless since the actual election can take place only on the list prepared just before such election. The difficulties pointed out by Mr. Matthew cannot be obviated by any amount of revision during the first three years before the election.

Further, Sir, in Travancore, the right to vote primarily depends on the capacity to pay land tax. And the list of tax payers is always kept up to date in each pakuthi and taluk. Whenever an alienation takes place, then also the mutation of names in the *thandaper* accounts is being made from time to time by the pakuthi and taluk staff. There is therefore absolutely no difficulty in getting that information in time for the preparation of an up to date electoral rolls, before the election There is nothing to be gained by having a permanent staff for that purpose.

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**MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM.** Do the pakuthi officers maintain a list of voters having educational qualifications?

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** No; but, even in that matter, there is no use in making a list years before the election, and in revising it from time to time. Because, even educationally qualified voters may die or otherwise lose the right before the next election.

As I have already explained, Sir, we require the lists only before elections, and it need be up to date only then. There will be the special officer who will visit each taluk and go through the voters' lists in each taluk, and then prepare the electoral rolls for the election. There is also the provision for interested parties applying for the necessary corrections in the rolls. There is therefore absolutely no necessity for spending more money on any special staff.

I hope the mover will see his way to withdraw the motion.

**MR. M. G. MATTHEW:** I may say, Sir, that even while moving motion it was not my idea to press it for a division. All the same I may just point out to the Chief Secretary that, even during the recent bye-election in Mavelikara, there were many instances of impersonation of dead persons and persons who had otherwise lost their voting rights but whose names had not been removed from the electoral rolls. Also, a number of persons who acquired voting qualifications this year were not allowed to vote during the bye-election. Sir, the principle of voting is that only people who are qualified to vote should be allowed to express their opinion in favour of a candidate. That principle is violated by a wrong list of voters. The difficulties that I pointed out arise during bye-elections.

I may also point out that the special officer and his staff who worked once in four years find little time to go into the claim of all the applicants who apply for their names being included in the rolls. There will not be that pressure of work if the list is brought up to date periodically, once every year as I suggested.

**MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM:** Does the member contemplate the appointment of a Revising Authority every year?

**MR. M. G. MATTHEW:** That is for the Government to decide; even for the small office that I suggest there would be a chief. He may be called the Revising Authority. There will be no necessity for a Revising Authority since the necessary revisions would be made as and when they arise. My idea is that, instead of the list of voters being in force for four years as at present, it need be in force only for one year, so that it will certainly be more up to date and correct than at present.

All that I suggest is only a small staff, so that it cannot be said that there is going to be any substantial additional expenditure.

My only object is to draw the attention of the Government to the matter, and I hope Government will consider the matter, whether according to them my motion is well-founded or ill-founded. Certainly, I am not going to divide the House on this motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

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**Motion No. 429.**

**PRESIDENT**: The other matter arises in this way. Section 15 (*c*) of the Regulation states that, "Subject to the provisions of this Regulation, provision may be made by rules under this Regulation as to the qualification of electors, the constitution of constituencies and the method of election for the Council and the Assembly and any matter incidental or ancillary thereto."

It is in pursuance of this provision that the rules have been framed which do not at this moment admit of the coloured box system. Therefore the motion as such is incompetent.

**Motion No. 431.**

**PRESIDENT**: I should like to know whether this motion has anything to do with the electoral rules.

**MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI**: I do not request the Government by means of this motion to make any amendments to the rules but to decide the question whether any change should be effected or not, a committee may be appointed.

**PRESIDENT**: The honourable member is out of order.

The following motion was therefore not moved:

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI:

431. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 52,500 under Demand XIII by Re. 1.

**Motion No. 432.**

**MR. M. L. JANARDANA PILLAI**: Sir, I move that the total allotment of Rs. 52,500 under Demand XIII may be reduced by Re. 1

My object is to bring to the notice of Government the need for providing convenience and suitable accommodation for members of the Legislative Bodies who come from outside Trivandrum. I am sure all the members of the House who come from places outside Trivandrum will agree with me that we are put to considerable difficulties and inconvenience because we have no convenient places for staying. I believe the practice else where is that Government are providing accommodation for all members and collect rents out of the Travelling Allowances that are paid to them and at the same time provide all the amenities necessary for a comfortable stay. It will also, in my opinion, be conducive to the corporate working of the various parties in the Assembly and in the State Council, if such conveniences are provided. Such conveniences are provided for the members of the Indian Legislative Assembly in Delhi and also for the members of the Mysore Legislative Assembly. I do not wish to say anything more than this and I trust that this will receive the very kind consideration of Government.

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN**: Sir, the Government recognize the necessity for accommodation being provided to members of the Legislature at the time of the Session. At present there are certain places available and the Government would also consider the desirability of providing additional accommodation at the time of the Legislative

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Sessions. An additional Satrom will be provided for people living in the orthodox fashion and Government would also consider the desirability of arranging convenient houses for occupation by other members. With this assurance I think Mr. Janardana Pillai will not press his motion.

**MR. M. L. JANARDANA PILLAI:** In view of the assurance I do not press my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**Motion No. 433.**

The following motion was not moved :

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR :

433. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 52,500 under Demand XIII by Re. 1.

**Motion No. 434.**

**PRESIDENT :** What is the subject of your motion, Mr. Kesavan.

**MR. K. KESAVAN** (*Karunagapally cum Kartikapally*): തോവാള അഗസ്തീശ്വരം നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഉണ്ടായ എലക്ഷൻ പെറ്റിഷനിന്മേൽ എലക്ഷൻ കമ്മിഷണർ സമർപ്പിച്ച റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറാർഡർ ഇതേവരെ പാസ്സാക്കിയിട്ടില്ല. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി പ്രതിപാദിക്കുവാനാണ്.

**PRESIDENT :** Yes.

**MR. K. KESAVAN :** സർ, തോവാള—അഗസ്തീശ്വരം നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ എലക്ഷനെസംബന്ധിച്ച് ഒരു എലക്ഷൻ പെറ്റിഷൻ വരികയും അതിന്റെ അന്വേഷണത്തിനായി ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഒരു കമ്മിഷണരെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തു. ആ കമ്മിഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ട് സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ട് മൂന്നു നാലുമാസമായി. അതിലെ ഹർജിക്കാരൻ മി. ശിവൻപിള്ളയും, എതിർകക്ഷികളും മി. നാരായണപ്പെരുമാളും നാടാരും മി. എം. ശിവതാണുപിള്ളയുമാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. എന്തായാലും റിപ്പോർട്ട് സമർപ്പിച്ചു നാലുമാസമായിട്ടും ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഇതേവരെ അതിന്മേൽ യാതൊരുത്തരവും പാസ്സാക്കിയില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള കാലതാമസത്തിനു കാരണമെന്താണെന്നും മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ ഊഹാപോഹങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇടകൊടുക്കാതെ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് എത്രയും വേഗത്തിൽ അവസാനഉത്തരവ് പാസ്സാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. പൊതുജനനന്മക്കു ഇതെത്രയും ആവശ്യമായതുകൊണ്ട് ഉടനടി ഇതിന്മേൽ ഒരു അവസാനതീരുമാനം ഉണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നാപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

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**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN**: Sir, the Government are conscious that there is some delay in the matter. But the question involves certain complicated points of law and Government must necessarily take some time to consider those questions and arrive at a decision. No avoidable delay will occur in the disposal of this matter.

**MR. M. G MATTHEW**: May I know whether in such matters Government go by the findings of the Commissioners in their report?

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN**: Of course, Government must pass orders on the basis of the findings of the Commissioners in their report. But questions of law have also to be considered by Government.

**MR. M. G MATTHEW**: May I know whether the findings of the Commissioners are not final, the Government only passing orders thereon?

**PRESIDENT**: The Commissioner's finding is binding on Government so far as it goes. But questions of law have been raised in this particular matter and I may inform the House that such cases have not arisen excepting once or twice even in England.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI**: May I know when the Commissioner's report was submitted to Government?

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN**: Sir, there was nothing in the cut motion to indicate that this question will be specifically raised and so I am not in a position to furnish the answer.

**PRESIDENT**: Order, order. That is the real trouble. When no indication is given as to the object of the mover of the motion, the Chief Secretary is apparently not ready.

**MR. K. KESAVAN**: I do not press the motion

The motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

**Motion 435.**

The following motion was not moved.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI:

435. "To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 52,500 under Demand XIII by Re. 1.

**Motion No. 436.**

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI**: Sir, I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 55,500 for Legislative Bodies be reduced by Re. 1.

My object in doing so is to point out the defective attitude of the Government towards the Legislative Bodies.

**MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI**: This sum includes non-votable items also.

**PRESIDENT**: The discussion will proceed with regard to the votable items.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI**: Sir, my position that Government are not extending that consideration to the Legislature which it deserves and which the Government ought to extend. The practice has all along been, Sir, to convene at least 3 meetings of the Legislature every year. During the time of Dewan Mr. Raghaviah, he used to convene four meetings a year. Later on, that practice was somehow changed and for a good many years now we have been having at least 3 meetings of the Legislature every year. Now, this year, the first meeting was

*The speech not corrected by the member.



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held in Vrischigom as usual. The next meeting was convened according to me only in Mithunam, I mean the next ordinary and usual meeting. No doubt there was a very short meeting for two or three days in Makaram. That was for the specific purpose of considering and enacting the Credit Bank Bill. That can by no means be considered to be a regular meeting of the Legislature that we used to have in Meenom. Further that was soon after the meeting in Vrischigom, two months after that and the Credit Bank Bill alone was considered then and no day was allotted for non-official business. Nor was it meant by the Government to be a normal meeting held in Meenom. Now, Sir, after that, the meeting of the Legislature was convened only last month, that is to say this session. There is absolutely no justification for not convening a meeting of the Legislature for so long a period. There will be several matters arising for consideration from time to time by the Legislature, and the non-officials will have many things to urge upon the attention of Government. Now, the meeting was not convened in Meenom and it certainly behoves Government to offer a very satisfactory explanation for this omission. I do not think that it will be seriously contended that the Makaram meeting answers the purpose because for the reasons I mentioned it will not amount to be such. There has now been a delay of seven months since the meeting was first held. That I should think was a slight offered to the Legislature by the Government. No doubt it is in the power of the Dewan to convene meetings of the Legislature, but if he refuses to exercise this power it certainly amounts to a slight in the absence of circumstances that go to justify that omission.

Then, Sir, in regard to the answering of questions. For this meeting notice was given of 715 questions and by to to-day we have got answers only to 322 questions. At the end of this session the total number of questions answered may come at the utmost to 400. Now, I ask what is is the justification for not answering all the questions of which notice was given. We take generally from 10 to 20 minutes for the answering of questions. It was only during the last two days that we took about half an hour. The first hour is meant for question time and what is the the justification for not answering all the questions of which notice has been given. by the end of the meeting? What has the Chief Secretary or the Government to say in answer to this question of mine? Further, this time even the usual answer that there was not time enough to get answers from the subordinate officers can not be urged because the meeting commenced on the 27th Mithunam. To-day it is the 20th of Karkatakom. Notice of questions was given twelve days before the commencement of the session, that is 12 clear days before the 27th of Mithunam, that is by the 15th. What is the possible answer that Government can give except that they are inefficient or indifferent or that there is lack of respect towards the Legislature. As I said, notices were given by the 15th of last month. It is well over a month now. Is it difficult to get answers to these questions? Is not the period of five weeks enough We have been spending our time on other things. That is a very serious charge I have to make against Government.

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Then in regard to the question of resolutions, Sir, very few of the resolutions passed by this House and evidently passed by the other House too are accepted by Government. No doubt they are only recommendations to Government, I can understand, and I doubt whether they seriously consider the resolutions and at least pass orders on them. Anyhow, I find from the Report that in 1112, 6 resolutions were passed of which one or two seem to have been given effect to.

Then, Sir, I come to the expenditure certified under Section 32 of the Legislative Reforms Regulation. I do not want to discuss any statement in detail in that connection. But this year an expenditure about 8 to 9 lakhs of rupees and probably even more was certified by Government and a statement was placed before us by the Financial Secretary at the meeting stating that about Rs. 6¼ lakhs has been certified by Government. Of course that does not cover the entire certified amount. After the meeting in makaram, Sir, some expenditure had to be incurred and in my opinion it may not come to so big an amount. From the statements furnished to us it will be seen that the items for which expenditure has been sanctioned, those are items which can very well come up before the Legislature for consideration. As far as I am concerned there is absolutely no urgency about many of the items of expenditure incurred by Government in that connection. The Legislature has been given certain powers in regard to the expenditure side. I ask, why those powers should be taken away by resorting to certification. When there are *urgent* necessities, such a procedure should be adopted. But subjects such as grants to the University, grants for the construction of buildings, roads, etc., cannot be considered to be important items not-requiring the sanction of the Legislature. Certification should be resorted to only in very exceptional cases. I seriously contend that Government ought not to resort to certification though no doubt, technically the law gives them power to do so. But it is not all power that the law gives which ought to be exercised. The power has to be exercised in very exceptional cases. The Government should not take into their own hands that power and spend in any manner they like.

Then I come to the way in which the Finance Committee is treated. I was myself a member of the Finance Committee and even now I continue to be a member of it. Sir, it is regrettable to find that the notes are submitted to the Finance Committee whenever Government likes. There is a rule to the effect that necessary information should be supplied to the Finance Committee at least two clear days before they meet. I take it the expression 'before 2 clear days' means, that it is before the matter is discussed notes should be submitted. That was not done at all at the meetings of the last Finance Committee. The practice has been not to do so. There was consistency throught the meeting of the last Finance Committee at least in this respect. It may be pointed out, this time the Government excelled themselves in that respect. Sir, the Finance Committee met on the 23rd of Mithunam, I mean that was the day on which we

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[Mr. A. Thanu Pillai.]

met. Then we had only three or four days meeting before the Assembly meeting was commenced. Therefore the business of the Finance Committee was not over by the time the Assembly session began. After meeting for four or five days we met again. There were two or three holidays when the Legislature also was not functioning. During those holidays the Finance Committee met. That was in the month of Karkatakam. Still a few notes were not supplied to the members of the Finance Committee. Even for a very important matter such as the University, the notes were not supplied. It is particularly noteworthy to observe how that matter was dealt with. From the notes given to us it could be clear how Government think that the Legislature can be insulted. The Government gave us a note giving two figures. The note related to the University budget. It was a sample so to say. The note says as follows. "Education Department grant including Travancore University the total expenditure being Rs. 8 lakhs. The details are, ordinary expenditure Rs. 5 1/2 lakhs, capital expenditure Rs 2 1/2 lakhs; the total Rs. 8 lakhs." That is a very interesting aspect. When was that given? That is even more interesting. We met for a number of days. I said one evening, it was 6 'o clock that we shall disperse and meet again the next day. The Chief Secretary insisted on our remaining there and finish the subjects. It was also urged by the Chief Secretary that the officials have more business to transact and that they could not find it convenient to meet the next day.

**MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI:** On a point of order. May I know whether as a member of the Finance Committee he is in order in disclosing what took place in the committee?

**PRESIDENT:** The honourable member is not in order in disclosing any details of the proceedings or the conversations which the member had in the Finance Committee.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI:** But that is a fact, Sir. We dispersed at 6 'o clock in the evening when the Chief Secretary insisted on our finishing the subject.

**PRESIDENT:** The honourable member can refer to the document that was supplied to him. But the honourable member is not entitled to disclose what happened to it and what kind of discussion or debate that took place.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI:** My point was this. I am not particular to state what kind of conversation took place. All that I am saying at the moment is that details were not given at the proper time and even the matter that was given at the time contained only meagre details. I wanted to know certain details regarding the University. At about 7 P. M. or so the question of expenditure relating to collegiate education came up for consideration. The Committee was not in possession of any figure at all. I asked a question whether the Government do not propose to carry on their scheme regarding Travancore University. I asked where is the information for that? It was at that juncture the meeting dispersed on the understanding that necessary materials

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will be supplied to us the next day. Even then, till we met the figures were not given. The notes that I read to the House just a few minutes ago, they were alone in our possession. From these things the House can understand what kind of information was supplied to the Finance Committee and how far the committee could discuss those important matters. All that I am concerned is that it is public money that is going to be utilised. Therefore the members of the Committee were particular to know about the details of the scheme. I am sure the proceedings of the Finance Committee will also be published along with the Assembly Proceedings.

**MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI:** Not all these matters that were given expression to by the member.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI:** I mean the proceedings of the Finance Committee. That being the case I said that I refused to consider that note. I am only bringing to the notice of the House all these facts just to show how the Government are indifferent in these things. They look upon this Legislature as a necessary evil. Some how meetings are to be held. That is the real position.

In regard to another matter that took place in the meeting of the Finance Committee on a former occasion, what I want to submit is this: A note was placed to the committee for an additional grant for the Scout Association in order to enable that Association to appoint one more officer. The specific ground alleged was that ....

**PRESIDENT:** Is the honourable member referring to a matter which was voted on by this Assembly?

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI:** No, Sir. It was not voted on by this Assembly then.

**PRESIDENT:** Was not the Education grant voted by this House?

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI:** Yes, But I am referring to the Finance Committee which met on a prior occasion.

**PRESIDENT:** After the meeting of the Finance Committee, did the Assembly meet to vote for the amount?

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI:** No, Sir. Then I would not have raised that point. The non-officials objected to that additional grant. We definitely said that such a grant should not be given to the association. It was stated then that the public money should not be wasted like that. Consequently that matter was not brought to the Legislature. The Finance Committee dropped the proposal. I now find without reference to the Legislative that specific sum was sanctioned by Government. Apart from the merits of the matter, I am discussing the principle involved therein. Now the Government could say that out of the savings that allotment was made. The Government may be within their rights or not. But when once a specific matter was discussed in all its aspects and disallowed by the Finance Committee and when Government refrained from bringing it to the Legislature, was it right for the Government to allow the grant even though it is open to them to say that the grant was made up from the savings. That again shows the insult offered. For all these reasons, I move my motion for the acceptance of the House.

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**MR. E. P. VARGHESE :** I wish to offer a few observations with reference to this question. About the working of the Legislature one fact has been brought to the notice of the House by the honourable member who spoke just now. The Standing Order says that every first hour of the day's business shall be available for answering questions. But we find, that during this session, on almost all days, fifteen or twenty minutes, only were utilised for answering interpellations. It is not the fault of the member large number of questions have been sent. I have brought to the notice of the House, and I have also noticed it in this House and elsewhere, that ordinarily 15 to 20 questions only are included in the business of the day, and that will be over within 20 or 30 minutes. That is why I say that the time allotted for interpellations should be fully utilised. Yesterday I found about 32 questions were answered within 50 minutes It will be seen from to-day's business that 47 questions have been answered within half an bour. It will be observed that even if 40 or 50 questions were allotted for the day, they could be answered within an hour, Therefore, I suggest that the full one hour must be utilised for the interpellations and as many interpellations as possible may be answered. That is the intention of the Standing Order also.

In regard to the printing of the Assembly reports, we were told that they will be supplied as early as possible. All of us are aware that only the proceedings of the first or second day alone are printed and supplied to us when the House is *in session*. Once the meetings are over the proceedings take time, nearly two or three months, for publication. Very often only just before the next session begins the proceedings are supplied to us. This matter should be looked into.

As regards the supply of the various departmental administration reports, I want to say a word. We are supplied these reports very late in the year. All the departmental reports for the year 1112 were supplied to us only a few days before this session commenced. The P. W. D. report, was placed on the table only a day or two before the P. W. D. demand came up for discussion. The administration reports contain very valuable information which we can use for comments. To examine how the department is working it would be of great use for us if they are made available to us long before the Budget Session commences. If the reports are not supplied to us sufficiently early I do not think we can make much use of them. I do not know the reason why these reports are delayed like this. The reports reach us by the end of the succeeding year.

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN :** Sir, Mr. Thanu Pillai has referred to a number of points to make out that the Government are not sufficiently considerate towards the Legislative Bodies. He said firstly that the number of meetings held this year was not adequate.

**MR. K. P. KOCHU KORA THARAKAN :** I do not hear, the member Sir.

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**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** The first point in Mr. Thanu Pillai's speech was that the number of meetings held this year has not come up to the expected level. So far as the holding of meetings is concerned, the Government try to convene meetings as often as there is legislative business to be transacted. This year about the month of Kumbham the Law Member was consulted whether a meeting of the Legislative Assembly could be convened. He replied that there was not sufficient business to be transacted. That was the reason why a meeting as usual was not convened earlier this year.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI:** I wish to know whether the non-officials were also consulted?

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** On this point the non-officials are not generally consulted.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI:** Is it the position of Government that it is only when there is Government business which is supported by the opinion of the Law Member that a meeting could be held?

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** I did not say that it is only when there is business whether official or non-official that meetings are convened.

**MR. K. P. KOCHUKORATHARAKAN:** ലാമെമ്പർ മീറ്റിംഗ് വേണ്ടാ യെന്ന് എഴുതികൊണ്ടാണോ പറഞ്ഞത്?

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** ഒരു മീറ്റിംഗ് കൂടത്തക്കവിധത്തിലുള്ള ജോലികൾ ഇല്ല എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു.

**MR. K. P. KOCHUKORATHARAKAN:** ആ അവസരത്തിൽ ബില്ലു കൾ സെലക്ട് കമ്മറ്റിയിൽ എടുത്തിരുന്നില്ലെ?

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** സെലക്ട് കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ട് വന്നിട്ട് ബിൽ അസംബ്ലിയിൽ വരത്തക്ക നിലയിൽ അന്നു തയാറായിരുന്നില്ല.

**MR. K. P. KOCHUKORATHARAKAN:** സെലക്ട് കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ട് വരാത്തതു് ലാമെമ്പറിന്റെ കുറ്റംകൊണ്ടാണോ, അസംബ്ളി മെമ്പറന്മാരുടെ കുറ്റംകൊണ്ടാണോ?

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** ലാമെമ്പറുടെപേരിൽ കുറ്റമുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല.

Then Mr. Thanu Pillai said that Government did not answer a sufficient number of questions. As mentioned by Mr Thanu Pillai notice of about 700 questions had been received for this session out of which, as Mr. Thanu Pillai himself expects, about 400 may be answered ere the session is over. About 150 are unstarred questions and the answers to a large number of unstarred questions are ready and will be incorporated in the proceedings. What remains is only about 150. However expeditious we may be in getting the answers prepared, there will be unavoidable delay to get complete information for answering some of the questions. In many cases references will have to be

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made to the various departments. Those departmental heads may have to refer them again to their subordinate officers. When answers are prepared, we examine them to see whether any further information is necessary to answer supplementary questions. If any additional information is found necessary, references will have to be made again back to the department. That necessitates some delay in the matter. I may assure the House that the effort on the part of Government has always been to answer as many questions as possible in the Assembly. If there is any delay it is due to want of time in the case of a few questions which require references back to departmental heads.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORATHARAKAN: ചോദ്യത്തിന് ഉത്തരം പറഞ്ഞ ക്കൂട്ടത്തിൽ, "ഉത്തരം പറയാൻ എടുക്കുന്ന സമയവും ചെലവും നോക്കുമ്പോൾ ഉത്തരം പറയാതിരിക്കുകയാണു നല്ലതെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു' എന്നു പറയുന്ന ഉത്തരങ്ങൾ എത്രയുണ്ടെന്നു പറയുമോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: അതിന്റെ കണക്കെടുത്തിട്ടില്ല, ചില പ്പോൾ അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഉത്തരങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടായിരിക്കും.

MR. M. G. MATTHEW: May I draw the attention of the member to answers which were given on the floor of the House that the member is referred to the proceedings on such and such a day or the answers to such and such questions? How will it be possible for members to refer to them?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Sir, I could not understand the honourable member's question.

MR. M. G. MATTHEW: Yesterday in answer to a question it was stated that the member is referred to an answer that was given on a previous day. I wish to know how it will be possible for the member to refer to that answer for putting supplementary questions.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: There is no necessity for that. All members are expected to be here during question time.

PRESIDENT: What the honorable member says is that when questions are answered in those answers what is found is the honorable member is referred to some previous questions. He says he finds it difficult to go and refer to that question.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: All the members are expected to be here during question time. Members can thus know what the answer is that is given to a similar question. There is no necessity for repeating it.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Is there not a provision that questions once answered need not be answered again:

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: There is that provision also.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Does not that method deprive the members of the chance of asking supplementary questions?

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**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** All supplementary questions can be asked when it is answered first.

**MR. M. G. MATTHEW:** When a question is asked the answer is that the member is referred to such and such a G. O. Does the Government expect that the member should go out and find the G. O. and come again to the House within the prescribed time?

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** The members are expected to be in possession of information regarding G. O's on all points on which they ask questions.

So far as resolutions passed in this House are concerned, Government always try to give effect to them, as far as possible. I may say that no resolution is left out without due consideration. It may be that Government cannot accept some of the resolutions. But the resolutions are always considered.

**MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM:** Are those resolutions made known to the House?

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** Sometimes orders passed on the resolutions are published.

**MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM:** In every case, and not sometimes.

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** The next point raised by Mr. Thanu Pillai relates to the action taken by Government under Section 32 of the Regulation.

**MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN:** പ്രമേയങ്ങളാം ഉപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു് ഉപേക്ഷിച്ച എന്നും സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതു സ്വീകരിച്ച എന്നും ഗവണ്മെന്റു പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതല്ലയോ?

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** മെമ്പറിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു ഗവണ്മെന്റു് ആലോചിക്കുന്നതാണു്.

Mr. Thanu Pillai objected to the action taken by Government under emergencies to meet certain items of expenditure which could not, in their opinion, be postponed. That is a power which the Government have got under the Regulation and that is intended to be exercised in cases of emergency. I can assure Mr. Thanu Pillai and the House that this power is exercised when, in the opinion of Government, the matter concerned cannot be put off till another meeting of the Assembly.

**MR. K. P. KOCHUKORATHARAKAN:** ൩,൦൦,൦൦൦ രൂപ നാട്ടിലൈ ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവന്നതു് മീനമാസത്തിൽ യോഗം വിളിച്ചുകൂട്ടാത്തതുകൊണ്ടല്ലയോ?

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** ൩,൦൦,൦൦൦ എന്ന ഒന്നായ ഒരു തുക ഗവണ്മെന്റു ചെലവാക്കിയിട്ടില്ല.

Mr. Thanu Pillai referred to the happenings in the Finance Committee. I must plead guilty to the charge. The notes of the Finance Committee could not all be prepared and circulated to the members in time. But in attenuation of that charge I may say that there was



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nothing deliberate in it. Owing to certain important matters on which action would only be taken rather late, notes could not be got ready in time on some points. When objection was raised by Mr. Thanu Pillai in the Finance Committee, I answered that we would begin by considering the subjects on which notes had bean circulated in time. In fact it was on that basis that we proceeded to transact business in the Finance Committee. I thought the matter ended there and that it would not be the subject matter for discussion or criticism elsewhere.

Another point on which Mr. Thanu Pillai took objection is the meeting of expenditure for certain urgent items out of the savings from which the expenditure can properly be met. That, as I have already said regarding action under Section 32, is also a step which the Government can lawfully take.

Mr. E. P. Varghese referred to the delay in the publication of the proceedings of this Assembly.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI:** May I know whether that additional grant to the Scout Association was ever brought to the notice of this House?

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** I do not think there was any necessity for bringing it to the notice of the Assembly.

As pointed out by Mr. E. P. Varghese, the publication of the proceedings of the Assembly are sometimes delayed. That is inevitable to all transactions of ordinary human agencies. But every effort will be made to publish these proceedings without avoidable delay. That is all what I have to say.

***MR. A. THANU PILLAI:** I wish to say a word in reply. The Chief Secretary said that it is after all the Government's wishes that ought to be respected in this matter. Because the Law Member said that he did not get ready the report of the Select Committee, there is no need for a meeting of the Legislature. That is a wrong way in which things should be viewed. Government should realise that it is a matter of the Government as well as a matter of the non-officials. They are right to insist that they should be given sufficient opportunities to ventilate their views on the floor of this House from time to time. The attitude taken by the Government is entirely wrong. There is no reason why the 200 questions should be left out.

**MR. C. O. MADHAVAN:** Sir, a word of personal explanation. It was said that the matter about official business only was referred to the Law Member. All I said was that the Law Member did not make any distinction between official and non-official business. He said there was no business sufficient for a meeting.

**PRESIDENT:** As the question of convening of the meeting is also a matter vested in me, I think, it is necessary to say just this. As honourable members of this Legislature are aware, the Law Member retired by efflux of time and the Legal Remembrancer came to the scene. Naturally there was a certain amount of delay in the consideration of the legislative measures. The whole question was whether

* Speech not corrected by the member.

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there was enough work for the meeting of the Legislative Assembly, either official or non-official, to justify the expenditure of a meeting ..... (At this stage one honourable member got into the hall).

The honourable member cannot come in when the Chair is speaking. He will retire and come in when the Chair has finished his speech. convened for just one or two days. It was because the report on the Select Committee on the Companies Regulation was not ready and because it was thought that other matters which were ready could be put on with it that there was any delay. It was felt that without the Companies Bill being ready, if the Legislature was summoned, it would mean only one or two days' work. It was for that reason that the Legislature was not summoned earlier. That is all I wish to say in regard to the delay for summoning the House.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI:** Sir, I press the motion.

The motion was put and carried.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI:** Sir, I demand a poll.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows :—

AYES—30.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Mr. | M. L. D'Cruz | 16 | Mr. | N. Narayana Kurup |
| 2 | ,, | Kannara Gopala Panickar | 17 | ,, | K. R. Narayanan |
| 3 | ,, | C. Jebamony Nadar | 18 | ,, | G. P. Nilakanta Pillai |
| 4 | ,, | M. L. Janardana Pillai | 19 | ,, | S. Nilakanta Pillai |
| 5 | ,, | A. J. John | 20 | ,, | Kainikara M. Padmanabha Pillai |
| 6 | ,, | K. Kesavan | | | |
| 7 | ,, | M. Kesava Panickar | 21 | ,, | E. John Philipose |
| 8 | ,, | K. P. Kochukoratharakan | 22 | ,, | M. Ramiah Pillai |
| 9 | ,, | P. K. Kumaran | 23 | ,, | P. J. Sebastian |
| 10 | ,, | Thariathu Kunjithommen | 24 | ,, | P. Sivarama Pillai |
| 11 | Sahib Bahadur | P. K. Kunju | 25 | ,, | M. Sivathanu Pillai |
| 12 | Mr. | P. Kunjukrishnan | 26 | ,, | A. Thanu Pillai |
| 13 | ,, | P. V. Mathai Chemparathy | 27 | ,, | K. T. Thomas |
| | | | 28 | ,, | T. M. Varughese |
| 14 | ,, | M. G. Matthew | 29 | ,, | V. K. Velayudhan |
| 15 | ,, | P. Nanoo | 30 | ,, | Puliyoor T. P. Velayudhan Pillai |

NOES—18.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Mr. | S. Chattanatha Karayalar | 10 | Mr. | Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai |
| 2 | ,, | K. J. Cheriyan | | | |
| 3 | ,, | E. E. Pandarathil | 11 | ,, | C. Kumara Das |
| 4 | ,, | A. Gopala Menon | 12 | ,, | C. O. Madhavan |
| 5 | ,, | M. Govinda Pillai | 13 | ,, | K. R. Narayana Iyer |
| 6 | Dr. | C. R. Harler | 14 | ,, | R. Narayanan Namboori |
| 7 | Mr. | N. John Joseph | 15 | ,, | G. D. Nokes |
| 8 | ,, | T. T. Kesavan Sastri | 16 | ,, | M. Ramachandra Rao |
| 9 | ,, | Kaviyoor K. K. Kochukunju | 17 | ,, | G. B. E. Truscott |
| | | | 18 | ,, | N. Velu Achary |

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NEUTRALS—13.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 Mr. Kottalil P. Abraham | 8 Mr. P. Narayana Pillai |
| 2 ,, P. C. Adichan | 9 ,, S. Narayana Pillai |
| 3 Sahib Bahadur V. Chandamiah | 10 Srimati T. Narayani Amma |
| 4 Mr. D. Francis. | 11 Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai |
| 5 ,, Joseph Vithayathil | 12 ,, Codiveetil C. Ramankunju |
| 6 ,, K. C. Karunakaran | 13 ,, E. P. Varghese |
| 7 ,, S. Krishna Aiyar | |

The motion was declared carried, 30 voting for, 18 against and 13 remaining neutral.

THE PRESIDENT: The question before the House is that Government be given a grant of Rs. 52,500 under Demand XIII—General Administration – Legislative Bodies, subject to reduction of Re. 1.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

## DEMAND XIV—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER.

DR. G. D. NOKES: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 21,781 under Demand XIV—Public Service Commissioner.

**Motions Nos. 437 to 439.**

The following motions were not moved.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN:

437. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,886 for deputation allowance by Re. 1.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN:

438. "To reduce the allotment of Rs. 611 for house rent allowance by Re. 1.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI:

439. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,300 for Secretary by Re. 1.

**Motion No. 440.**

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: Sir, I beg to move to reduce Re. 1 from the allotment of Rs. 3,900 for salaries to discuss the necessity for amending the Public Service Recruitment Rules.

Sir, the Public Service Recruitment Rules do not now serve the purpose which was intended by them, namely, the redress of the grievance of the unrepresented communities in the matter of getting appointments in the public service. Of course, Sir, some satisfactory results were achieved in regard to the appointments in the Lower Division of the Public Service as could be seen from the Administration Report of the Department. But, Sir, the appointments of proverthicars and accountants are not made with a view to benefit the members of the backward or unrepresented communities. These appointments should also be included in the Lower Division, and it is absolutely necessary to amend the rules for that purpose.

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